



11 Episcopal Road

1850

Victorian

"The haunted house"

The Gingerbread house"

1985 Townwide Historic and Architectural Survey of Berlin, Connecticut. Survey # 025

1850 current owner: Mary Chambrello

2018 Town of Berlin GIS Index.

1850 current owner: Patrick Chambrello

Sketch



Painting – Berlin-Peck Memorial Library

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Rd

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HERALD PHOTO — KELLEY O. BEAUCAR

Mary L. Chambrello's house is a popular one — especially around Halloween. This 1870 Victorian at 11 Episcopal Road has garnered a lot of attention by passers-by, artists and

photographers who cannot resist its eerie resemblance to many haunted homes of Hollywood fame. Its owner, however, maintains that the residence is "spirit-free."

This house may look eerie but ...

By Kelley O. Beaucar
HERALD REPORTER

BERLIN — It's a scene straight out of Hollywood.

The overgrown weeds and bramble brush, the sagging porch, the iron parapet against the crisp autumn sky — all combine to conjure an image of the dreaded haunted house.

The Victorian structure is in accelerated stages of disrepair, yet stands proudly — and unnervingly — at 11 Episcopal Road at the corner of Deming Road.

For years, tales of ghosts and goblins have swirled about the house like the orange and gold leaves left behind by the huge maples and oaks on the land around it.

Built in 1870, the house has been home sweet home to Mary L.

Chambrello and her foster children for 52 years. And in that time, she has never had the pleasure of playing host to a poltergeist.

"No hauntings whatsoever," the 78-year-old woman said Monday. "I've lived here for 52 years and it hasn't been haunted."

There are many, however, who would rather believe otherwise. Who can resist repeating the tales — of lights mysteriously appearing in the tower above, ghoulish faces in the window, eerie noises in the night?

Active imaginations have led many to drive by the house, slowly. Braver yet, many have asked the lady of the house if they could take pictures, even film the rambling structure close-up.

Chambrello doesn't mind; she has rather pleasant memories of Halloweens gone by, filled with children, decorations and laughter.

She and her husband, who passed away 22 years ago, used to take advantage of the house's spooky attributes, inviting neighborhood children over on Halloween, putting scarecrows by the porches and pumping scary music out the windows.

"We've had a lot of good memories here," she said.

Although pleased with the response her house has always received, Chambrello said it is now for sale. She suspects that if it is sold, the building will probably be razed in favor of an industrial or commercial development.

Consequently, she has done no repairs in the last five years, which can be confirmed by the rotting clapboards and disintegrated paint job. Yet the large rooms inside all echo with the memories of children and happiness, not the crooning of the paranormal, she said.



Painting – now located at Berlin Historical Society